

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 15-18 are pending. Claims 9-14 and 19-20 were canceled without prejudice in response to the Restriction Requirement. Applicants submit that no new matter was added.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that the Applicant elect one of the following groups of inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1-8 and 15-18 drawn to a method for diagnosing cancer which comprises detecting a soluble GPC3 protein in a test sample; and
- Group II. Claims 9-14 and 19-20 drawn to a diagnostic reagent and kit comprising an anti-GPC3 antibody.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, claims 1-8 and 15-18, drawn to a method for diagnosing cancer which comprises detecting a soluble GPC3 protein in a test sample.

Response to Election Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that, if Group I is elected, the following elections be made:

- (i) election of N-terminal peptide fragment from the following list: a peptide fragment contained in an amino acid sequence of GPC3 consisting of the 1st amino acid to the 374th amino acid or an amino acid sequence of GPC3 consisting of the 1st amino acid to the 358th amino acid; and
- (ii) election of specific test sample from the following list: blood, serum or plasma.

In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, (i) a peptide fragment contained in an amino acid sequence of GPC3 “consisting of the 1st amino acid to the 358th amino acid,” and (ii) “blood” as the species to be examined.

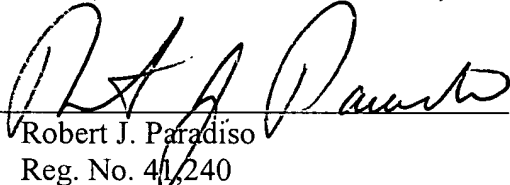
Applicants respectfully submit that all elections herein are made with traverse, as the search and examination of all the species can be made without a serious burden on the Examiner (See MPEP, 8th edition, Sec. 808.01(a)).

CONCLUSION

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephonic interview will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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